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**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

As a programmer since 1992 and a web developer since 1995, I want to add my voice to the list of folks who feel Microsoft has continually abused its monopolistic position in the software industry. I feel the current settlement gives Microsoft too many opportunities to undermine the free software movement. Free software is a learning tool for current and future programmers as well as a venue for sharing knowledge resources.

Its also important that there be other sources for software, as Microsoft has continually shown that user security is a low priority to them. This is witnessed by all the virus alerts last year due to "Sircam", "Code Red", "I Love You" and many other viruses and trojan attacks that targeted the large security leaks in Microsoft Outlook and the Windows operating system.

It also amazes me that no penalties have been levied against Microsoft considering their many past abuses and the financial resources that they have.

It appears that they have violated the spirit of many previous agreements and as there is no penalty for these violations, what is there to send a message about possible future violations. What is to keep them from future abuses and monopolistic behaviour? Why would they even care about this settlement if it has no "teeth"?

As Thomas F. Reilly, attorney general of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts said, "The Microsoft case always has been about simple, American principles: opportunity, competition, and fair play. Our economy is built on those principles. The future of high technology demands that we fight for them."

Because of the importance of this, the case should not end without a remedy that restores competition.

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